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 CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
 SANTA BARBARA, CA

March 7, 2007

City of Santa Barbara
 City Clerks Office
 Re: Appeal of Dance Permit for 514 State Street/DBA Sandbar

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to appeal the decision to grant a dance permit to the club known as Sandbar at 514 State Street. This appeal is late because at the Police and Fire Commission Meeting on February 22, 2007 it was said that this decision could not be appealed. This was not true, and the City Council has decided to extend the deadline based on this.

I was shocked and disappointed to learn that the Santa Barbara Police Department recommended an approval for this location to the Police and Fire Commission on February 22nd. It is my understanding that the Police Department is trying to implement a new Dance Ordinance that would prohibit Outdoor Dance Permits. The location at 514 State Street will surely require an Outdoor Dance Permit as it has an open patio and French windows that open out onto a patio. The dance area in question has a recently installed roof with zero insulation and a curtain instead of a front wall. The curtain opens directly onto the patio so that all sound is projected onto State Street and into the neighborhood. It is impossible to soundproof. Every time I have walked by this location the doors, windows and curtain have been open and loud music was projecting onto State Street. How could the Police Department recommend a dance permit for this location?

More than a year has passed since the City began hearings to review the current Dance Permit Ordinance. While we wait 2 new dance permits were issued, 450 people were cited for being drunk or sent to the sober station, nearly 200 underage kids were cited trying to sneak in with false IDs, 90 citations were issued for fights, and another \$500,000 was spent to police this small area.

I don't understand how the Police Department could recommend an approval for 514 State Street when the Police and Fire Commissioners showed concern that they have never been given crime statistics from the Police Department about Dance Club problems. The Ordinance Committee itself states the following:

Santa Barbara

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- There are a high number of reported offenses and alcohol-related crimes in the Entertainment district compared to the rest of the City
- This high concentration has presented law enforcement and public safety challenges
- The Police and Fire Departments spend considerable time managing the Entertainment District on evenings from Thursday through Sunday, reducing police coverage throughout the city.
- There are a total of 28 dance permits in the City of Santa Barbara. Of these dance permits, 21 are located within the Entertainment District.
- On most Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 10:00PM to 3:00AM, the majority of the Police Department's on duty personnel are policing the Entertainment District due to call volume and crowd management. Over the last three years from the hours of 10:00PM and 3:00AM 25% of the City's reported criminal offenses, and 54% of all alcohol-related crimes occurred in the Entertainment District. This area also accounted for 42% of the Police Department's arrests.

Is the Police and Fire Commission fully aware of these statistics provided by the Ordinance Committee? If they are, how can they approve yet another dance permit for the 500 block of State Street, especially when this location would require an Outdoor Dance Permit?

The City is currently spending a large amount of money remodeling the 400 and 500 blocks of State Street. The City is taking this area and making it more beautiful than before. Why not build on this by taking control of the Dance Permits issued by the City for the Entertainment District? This will make the area more cost effective and safer for businesses and residents alike.

I urge you to deny a dance permit for 514 State Street.

Sincerely,



Kay Morter
General Manager